

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NEA-07 PM-03 DODE-00
INR-05 CIAE-00 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-08 SP-02 PA-01
/062 W

-----085675 122033Z /66

P 121844Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1332
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01934

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, PLO, LE, IS
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SUBJECT: UNIFIL: SYG'S MEETING WITH TROOP CONTRIBUTORS,
MAY 11

REF: USUN 1906

1. SUMMARY: AT INSTIGATION OF CANADA (PER WESTERN FIVE
AGREEMENT REFTTEL) SYG WALDHEIM CALLED MEETING MAY 11 OF

UNIFIL TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO DISCUSS
ATTACKS ON UNIFIL TROOPS. ACCORDING TO PARTICIPANTS IN
MEETING, WALDHEIM'S PRESENTATION OF PROBLEM WAS
THOROUGH, BUT OUR PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION WAS NOT
STRESSED. FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS BY WESTERN FIVE WOULD SEEM
NECESSARY TO ENSURE BILATERAL APPROACHES HERE AND IN
CAPITALS TO ARABS AND PLO. END SUMMARY.

2. SYG WALDHEIM LATE MAY 11 CALLED MEETING OF UNIFIL
TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO DISCUSS CONTINUING ATTACKS ON
UNIFIL PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED
PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS (FIJI, IRAN AND
IRELAND IN THE LATTER CATEGORY). WALDHEIM DESCRIBED THE
PROBLEM CREATED BY NUMEROUS ARMED ELEMENTS (UN HAS
IDENTIFIED ABOUT A DOZEN PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST
ELEMENTS) WHO OPERATE RELATIVELY INDEPENDENTLY AND ARE
NOT NECESSARILY ANSWERABLE TO THE PLO. SYG ALSO
DESCRIBED SITUATION IN WHICH CERTAIN PALESTINIAN
ELEMENTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CHALLENGE YASIR ARAFAT WITH
GOAL OF DISCREDITING OR OVERTHROWING HIM.

3. DISCUSSION TURNED TO FURTHER PROBLEM OF UN FORCES
DISPOSING OF ARMS CACHES UNCOVERED DURING PATROLS AND
SEARCHES. SYG REMARKED THAT UNIFIL TROOPS HAVE
INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE POSSESSION OF ARMS CACHES OR TO
TRANSFER THESE ARMS TO AN AGREED SITE OUTSIDE OF UNIFIL
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CONTROLLED AREA. WALDHEIM DISCUSSED THE MAY 1-2
INCIDENTS IN TYRE AND THE DECISION TO KEEP UNIFIL TROOPS
IN TYRE BARRACKS WITH CERTAIN REDEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH
AND SENEGALESE UNITS. UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS LOCATION ISSUE
WAS ALSO MENTIONED. NAQUORA WILL REMAIN AS HEADQUARTERS
SINCE NO OTHER SITE IS FEASIBLE INCLUDING ZAHRANI
(SYRIANS UNWILLING TO RELEASE ONLY SUITABLE OFFICE
BUILDING). DISADVANTAGE OF NAQUORA IS THAT ONLY AVAILABLE
HOUSING IS ON ISRAELI SIDE OF BORDER.

4. FRENCH AMB LEPRETTE AND CANADIAN AMB BARTON PROPOSED
THE COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN REFTTEL. BARTON
SUGGESTED THAT APPROACHES BE MADE BY TROOP CONTRIBUTING
COUNTRIES TO ARABS AND TO PLO UNDERLYING THAT CONTINUING
ATTACKS ON UNIFIL COULD PLACE ITS EXISTENCE IN
JEOPARDY. HE NOTED THAT COUNTRIES PROVIDING TROOPS
INDEED HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN NOT HAVING THEIR MEN
PLACED IN SITUATION OF HOSTILE FIRE AND HARASSMENT. THIS
POINT WAS SECONDED BY AMB LEPRETTE WHO ADDED THAT THE
ATTACKS ON UNIFIL COULD DELAY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THERE
WAS LITTLE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL.

5. COMMENT: THE MEETING, AS IT TURNED OUT, DID NOT RESULT IN A CLEAR AGREEMENT OR EVEN A POINTED STIMULATION OF TROOP CONTRIBUTOR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT OUR DEMARCHES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OBVIOUS INTERESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP IN CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF PLO ATTACKS ON UNIFIL WERE UNDERSCORED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE SYG'S REPORT AND THE HELPFUL PRESENTATIONS OF THE FRENCH AND CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES -- THE LATTER, OF COURSE, ACTING ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREED TACTICS OUTLINED AT THE WESTERN FIVE MEETING MAY 10 (REFTEL). THE TROOP CONTRIBUTOR MEETING AT LEAST PUT DOWN OUR MARKER AND SET THE

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STAGE FOR FURTHER EFFORTS TO GENERATE MORE ACTIVE
INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM ON THE PART OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

6. THE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS CONSTITUTE A NATURAL, EASILY
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ACCEPTABLE GROUP, IN ANY EVENT, AND MAY WELL BE USEFUL
TO US LATER. WE WILL BE SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS
THIS PROBLEM BILATERALLY AND PRIVATELY WITH EACH OF THE
CONTRIBUTING STATES' REPRESENTATIVES HERE, AT THE SAME
TIME AS WE APPROACH REPS OF THE GOVERNMENTS BEING
APPROACHED IN CAPITALS (STATE 117862). WE ASSUME THAT,
EXCEPT FOR THE FRG, THE OTHER WESTERNERS ARE GOING
AHEAD WITH APPROACHES IN CAPITALS. WE WILL BE COMPARING
NOTES WITH THEM MORE IN DETAIL, PROVIDING INFORMATION ON
THE RESULTS OF OUR OWN APPROACHES AND SEEKING PLAY-BACK
FROM THEM AS A BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE
FURTHER STEPS. MCHENRY

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